

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 2420

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PE

SUBJ: CHANGES IN FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM

REF: STATE 51768

FOLLOWING ARE COUNTRY TEAM VIEWS ON POINTS A-E REFTEL (POINT F NOT APPLICABLE) CONCERNING IMPACT IN PERU OF INCREASED COSTS OF FUTURE FMTP.

A) IMMEDIATE EFFECT WILL BE DISAPPOINTMENT AND PROBABLE CONCLUSION THAT FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING IS REDUCED PRIORITY FOR U.S. SOME PERUVIAN MILITARY OFFICERS MAY CONCLUDE THAT NEW COSTS REFLECT DECREASED U.S. SUPPORT FOR PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES; U.S. OFFICERS SHOULD OF COURSE ATTEMPT TO CORRECT ANY SUCH MISINTERPRETATION. BILATERAL RELATIONS SHOULD NOT BE SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY ADDITIONAL COSTS IF NEW TRAINING PROGRAM NOT GUTTED.

B) PERU ARMY HAS SHOWN GREAT INTEREST IN SMALL UNIT LEADER ORIENTATION COURSE FOR CADETS IN PANAMA, ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL COURSES, COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF (C&GS) COURSES BOTH AT FT. LEAVENWORTH AND USARSA, AND HELICOPTER AND PATHFINDER TRAINING. PERU NAVY FIRST PRIORITY IS C&GS COURSES, FOLLOWED BY PG COURSES, AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COURSES. PERU AF TOP PRIORITY IS C&GS, FLIGHT SAFETY, PILOT-INSTRUCTOR BOTH FIXED WING AND HELO, COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS ADVANCED COURSES AND

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ADVANCED MAINTENANCE COURSES FOR ENLISTED PERSONNEL. HOST

GOVERNMENT INDIRECTLY PAYS PART OF COSTS FOR ALL MAP-T COURSES BY PROVIDING LIVING ALLOWANCE AUGMENTATION TO ALL MILITARY TRAINEES ABROAD. IN THE MAJORITY OF CONUS COURSES, THIS AUGMENTATION MEETS OR EXCEEDS THE TOTAL COST OF THE MAP COURSES, I.E. COURSE COST PLUS MAP TLA. IN ADDITION, GOP PAYS FOR ROUND TRIP TRANSPORTATION OF DEPENDENTS IF COURSE IN MORE THAN 40 WEEKS AND PAYS FOR RETURN HOUSEHOLD GOODS IF COURSE IS MORE THAN ONE YEAR. PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES ARE UNLIKELY TO BUY MANY COURSES AT INCREASED COSTS. THEY WILL EITHER ELIMINATE TRAINING OR TURN TO THIRD COUNTRIES.

C) SPECIFIC COURSES OF GREATEST POTENTIAL BENEFIT TO U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST IS CAEM ORIENTATION TOUR. EXPOSURE OF IDENTIFIED FUTURE COUNTRY LEADERS TO U.S. CULTURE, INDUSTRY, PEOPLE, ETC. ALMOST ALWAYS RESULTS IN FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS. IT CANNOT OF COURSE BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THERE IS A DIRECT CAUSE-EFFECT OF THIS IMPRESSION ON USG-GOP RELATIONS. HOWEVER, OUR CONTACTS ARE INVARIABLE WARMER WITH THOSE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY U.S. FOR SOME REASON CONUS TRAINING COURSES IN GENERAL PROVIDE POTENTIAL BENEFIT. MOST OF THESE COURSES ARE PROVIDED UNDER GRANT ASSISTANCE. DOUBING OF COURSE COSTS WOULD ELIMINATE ESSENTIAL CONUS GRANT TRAINING COURSES UNDER PRESENT FUNDING LEVEL.

D) PERUVIAN MILITARY CAN BE EXPECTED TO ABANDON U.S. TRAINING WHICH THEY CAN OBTAIN ELSEWHERE EITHER FREE OR AT MORE REASONABLE COST. WE WOULD THUS EXPECT THEM TO ABANDON C&GS COURSES AND SOME ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL COURSES. UNFORTUNATELY THE STUDENTS FOR THESE COURSES ARE THOSE MOST LIKELY TO BE INFLUENTIAL IN THE FUTURE. WE WOULD ALSO EXPECT THEM TO DROP MANY AVIATION COURSES. IT IS EXPECTED THAT ENLISTED COURSES WOULD BE DROPPED IN PREFERENCE TO OFFICER COURSES.

E) PERU WILL LOOK TO OTHER LATAM AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AS WELL AS USSR AND CUBA FOR EQUIVALENT TRAINING. THEY ALREADY DO SO. IN TERMS OF MILITARY COMPETENCE, SOVIET AND CUBAN TRAINING IS GENERALLLY EXCELLENT, EUROPEAN GENERALLY GOOD AND OTHER LATAM FAIR. INTEREST IN U.S. TRAIL AND DOCTRINE IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT. IF U.S. TRAINING EXPOSES PERUVIANS TO

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U.S. MATERIAL AND DOCTRINE, A REDUCTION OF TRAINING COULD LEAD TO REDUCTION OF INTEREST. LIKEWISE INCREASED THIRD COUNTRY TRAINING COULD LEAD TO INCREASED THIRD COUNTRY PURCHASES. IN GENERAL, WE WOULD ANTICIAPTE A WANING OF INTEREST IN U.S. MATERIAL AND DOCTRINE. BILATERAL RELATIONS COULD BE AFFECTED SOMEWHAT BY DRASTIC CUT OR ELIMINATION OF TRAINING PROGRAM.
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